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C O N F I D E N T I A L COLOMBO 000734

SIPDIS

OFFICIAL INFORMAL

DEPARTMENT FOR SA/INS

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SUBJECT: OFFICIAL INFORMAL NUMBER 67 (04-30-03)

Classified by E. Ashley Wills, Reasons 1.5 (b, d)

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- HUMAN RIGHTS DIALOGUE
- SINHALESE CHAUVINIST PARTY'S THREAT
- MAY DAY HOLIDAY

PM LETTER TO BALASINGHAM

¶1. (C) We have received a copy of the Prime Minister's letter to LTTE chief negotiator Anton Balasingham replying to the Tigers' April 21 pullout from the peace talks. We received the copy late this afternoon and will provide an analysis of it to you shortly. It seems to be conciliatory in nature. We are forwarding a copy of the letter to SA/INS via class e-mail. (POL)

¶2. (SBU) In other peace process news: As previously reported, it is now out in the press that Balasingham is scheduled to visit the Wanni in northern Sri Lanka next week. (Note: Per Colombo 728, Moragoda was invited to by Balasingham to join him in the north next week for meetings.) A Norwegian team was slated to meet with LTTE political chief S.P. Thamilchelvam today in the Wanni, but we have not yet received confirmation that the meeting in fact took place. (POL)

HUMAN RIGHTS DIALOGUE

¶3. (C) FYI. Pls pass to DRL: We understand that the MFA wants to make our 2002 human rights report on Sri Lanka a topic for our annual human rights dialogue. We're not sure whom from DRL will lead our side of the dialogue now that PDAS Parmly is gone nor when it will take place, but we wanted you to know the GSL wants this to be a topic. (POL)

SINHALESE CHAUVINIST PARTY'S THREAT

¶4. (SBU) Please pass to S/CT: In a public statement made on April 29, a senior member of the extremist, chauvinist Sihala Urumaya (SU) party said using suicide bombers against the LTTE would be a good idea. We're not sure what to make of this. From what we understand, this is the first time that such a threat has emerged from Sinhalese ranks. The SU itself is small and full of cranks, but even uttering such threats is serious. (POL/RSO)

MAY DAY HOLIDAY

¶5. (U) Sri Lanka will be celebrating May Day tomorrow and Mission will be closed. (POL)

WILLS